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Extension Service - United States Department of Agriculture

## W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

### SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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High lights of the week's summary: Programs and practices for meeting the feed-supply situation; biggest sweetpotato production in history in one State; a plan to save mileage in livestock transportation; reports on farm labor, dairy production, home food supply, and nutrition.

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LOUISIANA  
October 1, 1943

Farm manpower.--All-out activities in recruiting 100,000 harvesters for cotton, rice, and sugarcane crops engaged Extension Service throughout month. Each agent in 64 parishes undertook farm mobilization program to supplement hiring of labor through regular channels. Under direction of extension State supervisor of farm labor, manpower required for commodity requirements was enrolled in each area. Although extension authorities felt that use of war prisoners was not solution to harvesting problem, they took steps toward having territorial limitations removed from war prisoner regulations. They also recommended establishment of prisoner camps at designated places in rice, cotton, and sugarcane areas, where buildings might be converted readily into temporary housing quarters. Indications were that campaign would produce sufficient help to harvest virtually all crops, which are larger in State than for many years.

Livestock feed.--To provide against threatened shortage of feed for 339,000 head of dairy cattle and 1,265,000 head of beef cattle, extension specialists conducted campaign for planting supplementary pastures in livestock areas. Dairy farmers agreed to sow oats in September and plant clovers in October and November, to provide about 1/2 acre for each dairy cow. This year, it is estimated, Louisiana dairymen will produce over 700,000 pounds of milk against 670,000 pounds last year. Beef cattlemen throughout State were active in planting grains and proteins to provide against shortages.

Sweetpotatoes.--This year's sweetpotato harvest is expected to be over 8,000,000 bushels, largest in history in state. Extension horticulturists aided growers in protecting crop by giving systematic instructions in handling, storing, grading, and marketing. Because of large number of farmers growing sweetpotatoes for first time, meetings were held throughout growing area, besides widespread distribution of literature, radio broadcasts, and newspaper publicity. Effort included publication of 50,000 copies of wartime leaflet.

"Food for Victory Fair".-Extension workers cooperated with experiment station staff in plans for visual demonstration of food-production program through "Food for Victory Fair" at Donaldsonville, beginning October 1. Fair includes exhibits to show production and preservation of meat--curing, canning, and quick freezing. Sugarcane-growing demonstration illustrates recommended varieties for different types of soil, recommended practices for borer control, cryolite dusting for insect control, and methods of combating mosaic and chlorotic streak diseases. Processes for dehydrating fruits and vegetables, including machinery and equipment, are shown. Economical sweetpotato shredder, developed by agricultural engineering department, for use in dehydrating sweetpotatoes for livestock feed, is exhibited. Entomology exhibit features truck crop and garden insect control, with emphasis on Victory garden pests. Purpose of fair is to aid food producers, both at home and on the farm.

#### MISSOURI

September 1, 1943

Farm labor.-Hot, dry weather started cotton-picking season ahead of time, and several hundred cotton pickers had to be recruited on short notice. Demand will reach peak in late September when several thousand extra pickers will be needed. Counties adjoining Missouri's cotton belt are mobilizing all available workers to send to cottonfields. In cotton area itself, men, women, and children are helping in harvest.

Survey made by county agents showed need for several hundred apple pickers. Most of them are being recruited from apple-growing counties but cities and nearby areas were called upon for additional workers.

To meet increasingly urgent demand for dairy workers, a number of town women are being recruited and trained for placing on commercial dairy farms.

Feed supply.-Meetings on immediate measures to supplement available feed supplies have been held in all parts of State. Usual summer conferences on soils and crops were devoted to forestalling threatened deficit of grain, forage, and protein concentrates. State specialists, county agents, and neighborhood leaders explained serious nature of feed situation and discussed things that could be done at once and through early fall to produce additional feed quickly. Practices emphasized were:

1. Cut all remaining hay crops at stage of highest feeding value and handle to prevent waste.
2. Seed fall grains early; including wheat in areas designated by extension survey as having negligible Hessian-fly infestation.
3. Increase acreages of fall-seeded small grain for both pasture and grain.
4. Use fertilizer to increase yield of small grains for pasture, hay, and grain.
5. Adopt grazing practices that will increase acre output of meat, milk, and other livestock products.



Soil conservation.--Sixteen Perry County farmers turned in reports on 5 years of service as community demonstrators of good soil-building practices, including use of TVA phosphate in balanced farming system. All reported that lime, phosphate, and legumes, used consistently over 5-year period, have greatly increased productive capacity of land. Immense gains were realized through improvement of pastures. Livestock-carrying capacity now is about double that of 5 years ago, and most of demonstrators have actually doubled their livestock numbers. A few are plowing under clover for further basic improvement of land. Labor saving is another benefit reported by fully half of demonstrators, despite fact that new system has required survey of fields, changing of fences, spreading lime and phosphate, and handling larger numbers of livestock.

Home food supply.--Food production, preservation, and utilization were keynotes of intensive work program of rural women of Pettis County. Work included campaign for fall gardens, month-long activity in food preservation, and systematic study in nutrition courses. Home-economics extension clubs of county were represented by 112 members enrolled in Red Cross nutrition courses. By end of August, 59 certificates for work completion had been awarded and 6 classes were still in progress. Campaign for fall gardens was opened by six sectional meetings held simultaneously under joint leadership of Extension, women's clubs, Farm Security supervisors, and vocational agriculture instructors. In canning clinics and demonstrations 142 pressure cookers were tested. For weeks, county extension office was besieged with calls for additional information on canning -- sometimes from 6 in morning till 10 at night.

Boone County extension staff continued through summer weekly broadcasts from radio station KTRU on food production, preservation, storage, and utilization. Steadily increasing numbers of comments and inquiries from listeners indicate broadcasts reach many families in Columbia and throughout county. Broadcasts have also stimulated greater interest in series of home-economics leader-training meetings, and general meetings on producing and serving food.

4-H Club work.--Feature of August 4-H program in Missouri consisted of 16 district round-ups of county 4-H Club winners, club presidents, leaders, and elected delegates. Each district was made up of host county and adjoining counties. In this series of all-day meetings from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., 1,621 club members and 575 leaders and parents, from total of 109 counties, participated. Mornings were given to contests in demonstration, judging, health, and grooming. In afternoons delegation was divided into four group discussion sections for club presidents, leaders, boys, and girls. Style dress revue opened evening program, followed by awarding of honors, singing, and entertainment. Each round-up closed with candle-lighting ceremony.

About 95 percent of the 277 members of 4-H Clubs in Henry County this summer participated in achievement programs and other county-wide events, including exhibition and judging of foods, clothing, poultry, and livestock. Among major 4-H events were a Victory fryer show, at which 350 birds were exhibited and sold 1 cent a pound above market price plus prizes won; lamb and wool show; and hatching-egg show of 84 exhibits and 22 individual demonstrations on selecting hatching eggs.

Four brothers who are 4-H Club members in Barton County did well with western ewes this year and are starting new year's work with larger experience and capital. These boys, Robert, Donald, Ronald, and Leland Selvey, started last fall with 8 ewes that cost \$102. They still have these ewes, and 3 ewe lambs, after selling \$25 worth of wool and \$75 worth of lambs. Their wool clip was 75 pounds, and their meat sales consisted of 5 lambs weighing 510 pounds. Practically all of feed used was grown on Selvey farm.

Livestock transportation.--A million truck miles will be saved in hauling livestock to market from 10 northwest Missouri counties this fall and winter, if plans recently made by local committees are carried out. Committees met with representatives of Extension and OET and worked out livestock transportation program for each county. Arrangements were made for listing livestock in advance to aid in planning loads so that pick-up mileage will be reduced, cross hauls and back hauls shortened, and hauling of partial loads to terminal markets avoided. Back hauls of necessary freight will also be made from terminal markets. Committees estimate these procedures should save about 3 percent of former mileage in transporting stock to market, and perhaps several million truck miles in getting goods from terminal market back to the country.

Poultry.--After mailing 290,000 post cards in campaign to save feed, county agents held culling and summer-management meetings. Culling was urged as safe measure for bringing poultry members into better relation to feed supplies, and vaccination as means of reducing mortality from fowl pox. They also demonstrated improvement of equipment to conserve feed and prevent losses from disease next fall and winter.

In Christian County, contest was conducted to encourage better poultry management. Feed dealers cooperated by giving summer range feeders of approved design to customers turning in best sets of answers to poultry quiz based on extension poultry production check sheet. In many counties, druggists and veterinarians report largest demand in their experience for fowl pox vaccine and vaccination.

Dair production.--Twenty years of intensive work on improvement of dairy herds and equipment, development of all-year pasture systems, and encouragement of milk-processing plants have placed dairy industry of State in position to be of immense service in war food production. Missouri now produces more than 40 million pounds of cheese a year and is in third place among cheese States. Since 1924--about the time Missouri Extension Service started its drives for supplementary pastures and large output of better quality milk--number of cheese factories in State has increased from 1 to 51. Annual output of Cheddar cheese has grown from 250,000 pounds in 1924 to 40,435,000 pounds in 1942.

NEW YORK

September 25, 1943

Farm labor.--It is now estimated that 30,000 additional emergency farm workers will be needed to harvest 1943 crops. Chances of getting these workers from among vacationists, men and women released from industry, boys and girls released from schools, and some more imported foreign labor seem fairly good. Responses to emergency calls have been prompt and willing in most cases. Many industrial workers of rural origin have been giving 4 to 6 hours a day on farms in addition to regular shift in industrial jobs.



Farmers in three central New York counties have agreed to try Japanese workers from Relocation Administration. Before reporting on farms, they will receive some training at a State secondary school.

Last fall, 16,000 school boys and girls helped with harvest. This fall, more than 25,000 are working several hours a day or are released for short periods. They pick apples, potatoes, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables, harvest silage corn, and help with other field work.

In lower Hudson Valley, 250 New York City policemen and firemen, on vacation, are expected to help harvest apple crop. Jamaicans, Bahamians, and others are being shown how to pick apples by means of color film prepared from shots taken this fall on early varieties. In 15 minutes film gives more and better instruction than could be given quickly in any other way.

Feed supply.--State Emergency Food Commission has recommended that: (1) Feeders and feed handlers work out voluntary feed rationing, (2) established dairy and poultry farms be supplied with feed first, and (3) commission attempt to get maximum imports of Canadian grain.

Extension Service is: (1) Presenting problem and cause to farmers, (2) keeping them informed of changes in feed situation, and (3) recommending current practices to help to ease next winter's inevitable difficulties when poultrymen and dairymen make effort to get maximum production of milk and eggs.

Milk production costs.--Recently completed study for year ended in April 1943, based on farm-to-farm survey in four widely separated but intensive milk-producing counties, showed average cost of \$3.01 a hundredweight, as compared with \$2.07 in 1940. Farm wages had increased from \$46 a month in July 1939 to \$76 in July 1943. Grain was figured at \$47, hay at \$11, and silage at \$5 a ton. During period 1942-43, average price received for milk was \$2.90, which means farmers get 33 cents an hour for their work. These returns to labor on dairy farms, together with expected feed-grain shortage, point to decrease in milk production this winter.

Foods and nutrition.--To supplement regular extension staff so as to bring nutrition program to up-State cities and urban areas, 24 home economists have been employed. Nutritionists have had to work slowly, making contacts with county and city nutrition committees, and other agencies already carrying on nutrition programs, and planning where their contribution to entire program would be most effective. While making these contacts, they have started newspaper and radio work, have trained leaders to teach food preservation and preparation, and have given demonstrations in foods and nutrition.

Programs under way include: Food preservation; home storage of food; school lunches; lunch-box projects for industrial workers; campaign to prevent food waste; nutrition talks for organized groups; helping with food plans for farm labor camps; teaching new users of freezer-lockers effective methods of freezing home-grown foods; testing pressure-cooker gauges; teaching effective use of Victory canners; serving on county and city nutrition committees; holding canning clinics and demonstrations at Victory Garden shows; planning nutrition programs to reach industrial workers, residents of Army posts, school children, and their parents. Organization and administration of emergency program have been handicapped by delay in receiving equipment and supplies. Emergency nutritionists have had to borrow both supplies and equipment from county and city extension offices. Working under these disadvantages with little secretarial help, nutritionists have accomplished much more than was expected.

